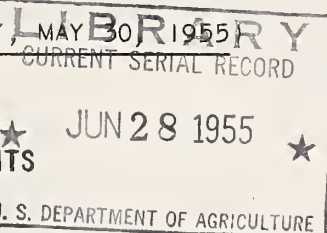


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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

(FOR RELEASE MONDAY, MAY 30, 1955)



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AUSTRALIAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN RAISIN CROPS SMALLER THIS YEAR

Somewhat smaller raisin packs, of much poorer quality than in 1954, are indicated by reports from Australia and South Africa. Heavy rains late in the season in both countries were responsible for the reduction in production and quality. Estimated 1955 pack and 1954 output (in parentheses) are as follows: Australia - sultanas and lexias, 80,000 short tons (85,100 tons); currants, 12,400 tons (15,000 tons); South Africa - raisins, 9,400 tons (10,700 tons). An exceptionally large crop was expected in Australia, but it was severely damaged by a combination of abnormally high humidity, rain, and heat while the fruits were either ready for picking or on the drying racks.

WEST GERMAN CIGARETTE OUTPUT UP 12 PERCENT

According to information contained in Die Tabak-Zeitung (Tobacco Gazette-Mainz) of April 22, output of cigarettes in West Germany during the first 3 months of 1955 totaled 9.9 billion pieces--up 12 percent from the 8.7 billion produced during the corresponding period of 1954.

Output of American-type blended (including filter-tip) made up about 78 percent of total output during the period January-March, 1955, against more than 90 percent during 1951. Output of oriental-type cigarettes continued upward through March, and amounted to 16.7 of the total produced during that month--compared with only 4.3 percent in 1951. Straight Virginia-type accounted for 1.5 percent, and dark-type cigarettes from 3 to 4 percent of the total. Output of filter-tip cigarettes (believed to be largely American-type blended) increased to 8.4 percent of total cigarette production--compared with only 2.3 percent in 1951. (Cont'd, opposite page.)

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to assist the foreign marketing of U. S. farm products by keeping the nation's agricultural interests informed of current crop and livestock developments abroad, foreign trends in production, prices, supplies and consumption of farm products, and other factors affecting world agricultural trade. Circulation is free to persons in the U. S. needing the information it contains.

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There were 4 new brands of cigarettes introduced during March 1955. Three of the brands were oriental-type - "Arabis," "Club" and "Senat." The first 2 retail at 166.6 pfennigs per package of 20 (39.6 U.S. cents), and the other brand at 200.0 pfennigs (47.5 U.S. cents). The fourth new brand is a cork filter tip, "H. B. Kronenfilter - American Blend," which retails at 166.6 pfennigs (39.6 U. S. cents).

GERMAN TRADE MISSION EXPECTED IN RHODESIA

A delegation of West German commercial, industrial, and Government representatives is expected to visit the Rhodesian Federation during the month of May at the invitation of the Federation Government. West Germany is a substantial buyer of Rhodesian tobacco, and for some time the balance of trade has been in favor of the Federation. This group will make a close study of the Central African market for German exporters in order to increase their sales in the area.

JAPAN'S GRAIN CROP OUTLOOK GOOD

The outlook for the 1955 grain crop in Japan is promising, based on official condition figures as of May 1. A total grain outturn approximating the near-record 1954 harvest is indicated, if weather conditions continue favorable. A slight decline in wheat production would be offset by an increase in naked barley, if present prospects materialize. Official estimates of grain acreage are not yet available, but the total appears to be about the same as in 1954.

The Japanese Ministry of Agriculture placed the May 1 wheat condition figure at 102 percent of normal, compared with 106 percent a year earlier. The condition of common barley was unchanged at 107 percent of normal, while naked barley, which normally amounts to about 45 percent of the country's total barley production, was placed at 106 percent of normal, 2 percent above the May 1, 1954 condition.

INDONESIA WILL IMPORT RICE

The Indonesian Minister of Economic Affairs announced recently a Government decision to import 30,000 metric tons of rice, reversing the previous plan to forego such imports in 1955. The decision reportedly is made to meet demands arising from flood damage, the refugee situation in South Celebes, and an unexpected increase in rice consumption.

Total rice production in 1955, according to Indonesian authorities, is now indicated to be about sufficient to meet the domestic demand. However, difficult transportation and other factors result in the need for imports in order to meet any sudden need.

U. S. RICE EXPORTS INCREASE IN MARCH

United States rice exports in March totaled 1,120,000 bags (100 pounds) in terms of milled rice, the largest monthly exports since September 1954. Exports were substantially less, however, than in March last year.

Of the total, 76 percent was exported to Japan, and 14 percent to Cuba. Important quantities also went to Canada, Belgium and Luxembourg, Venezuela, and Colombia. (See table, opposite page.)

U.S. SEED EXPORTS AT RECORD LEVEL

United States exports of grass and legume seeds July 1954-March 1955 totaled 47.6 million pounds, compared with 23.7 million in the comparable period a year earlier. Shipments thus far in 1954-55 exceed those for any crop-year of record, even though March exports were only 1.6 million pounds.

U. S. EXPORTS: Grass and Legume Seeds, March 1955, with comparisons

Kind of seed	March		July 1, 1953,	July 1, 1954,
	1954	1955	to March 31, 1954	to March 31, 1955
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Alfalfa	1,707	139	9,224	10,197
Alsike	0	0	2,722	532
Other clover	714	110	7,848	9,975
Fescue	151	119	1,071	1,469
Kentucky bluegrass ..	33	37	247	1,021
Orchard grass	17	12	142	200
Redtop	2	12	321	420
Timothy	152	187	498	851
Other grasses	302	974	1,641	22,911
Total	3,078	1,590	23,714	47,576

Compiled from official statistics of the Bureau of the Census.

RICE: United States exports to specified countries,
March 1955, with comparisons 1/

Country of destination	August-July		August-March		March	
	1952-53	1953-54	1953-54	1954-55 2/	1954	1955 2/
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bags	bags	bags	bags	bags	bags
Western Hemisphere:						
Canada.....	601:	633:	495:	431:	54:	28
British Honduras.....	3:	17:	9:	27:	3:	6
British West Indies.....	81:	6:	5:	2:	1:	3/
Cuba.....	4,876:	4,755:	3,933:	2,991:	116:	162
Haiti.....	2:	2:	1:	55:	0:	3/
Netherlands Antilles.....	41:	53:	36:	28:	7:	3
Venezuela.....	86:	215:	167:	82:	7:	22
Colombia.....	3/	314:	57:	201:	22:	10
Other countries.....	13:	32:	22:	24:	4:	8
Total.....	5,703:	6,027:	4,725:	3,841:	214:	239
Europe:						
Belgium and Luxembourg....	52:	206:	177:	195:	17:	26
Greece.....	3/	11:	5:	5:	3/	3/
Ireland.....	0:	0:	0:	16:	0:	0
Netherlands.....	0:	12:	12:	7:	0:	0
Sweden.....	3/	1:	1:	70:	0:	3/
Switzerland.....	38:	57:	51:	49:	6:	0
West Germany.....	3/	29:	16:	9:	0:	0
Other countries.....	10:	24:	23:	8:	0:	1
Total.....	100:	340:	285:	359:	23:	27
Asia:						
Saudi Arabia.....	138:	130:	84:	123:	8:	2
Ceylon.....	647:	0:	0:	0:	0:	0
Indonesia.....	1,100:	0:	0:	0:	0:	0
Korea, Republic of.....	4/4, 631:	590:	590:	3/	0:	0
Hong Kong.....	179:	0:	0:	3/	0:	0
Japan.....	3,999:	8,538:	7,198:	1,243:	1,349:	849
Ryukyu Islands.....	616:	0:	0:	0:	0:	0
Other countries.....	5:	25:	21:	9:	2:	1
Total.....	11,315:	9,283:	7,893:	1,375:	1,359:	852
Total Oceania.....	19:	17:	13:	16:	2:	0
Liberia.....	22:	67:	22:	119:	22:	0
Other Africa.....	3/	6:	4:	6:	0:	1
Other.....	-	5/	8:	5/	4:	5/
Total world.....	17,159:	15,748:	12,946:	5,722:	1,622:	1,120

1/ Milled rice, including brown, broken, screenings and brewers' rice and rough rice converted to terms of milled at 65 percent. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Less than 500 bags. 4/ Adjusted to include all programs of the Department of Defense and the Foreign Operations Administration. 5/ Starting with January 1954, "other" includes shipments valued at less than \$500 each when the number of such shipments to a country in a given month is few.

Source: Bureau of the Census, except as noted.

MEXICO INCREASES RICE PRODUCTION

Mexico's 1954-55 rice harvest was relatively large and will allow an exportable surplus of about 37 million pounds of milled rice; according to Ana M. Gomez, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Mexico; D. F. This is the first time since 1950 that significant exports of rice from Mexico have been possible.

The crop harvested largely in December, but partly during the first 2 months of 1955, is now estimated at approximately 380 million pounds of rough rice--15 million pounds more than the previous estimate, and 45 million pounds larger than in the year before.

Rice production declined in the State of Sonora, but exceeded output of the year before in most of the other rice-growing districts, particularly in Sinaloa and Veracruz. The area harvested is now estimated at 222,000 acres, as compared with the previous estimate of 205,000 acres.

Growers report intentions to plant a larger acreage in rice in 1955-56--possibly 250,000 acres. The increase is expected to take place principally in Veracruz and Sinaloa, where rice mills have been built recently.

Rice exports during 1954 and the first quarter of 1955 have been negligible. Permits have been granted by the Ministry of Economy to export some of the 1954-crop surplus but shipments thus far have been insignificant because of unfavorable prices of rice on the world market.

Average monthly wholesale prices in Mexico City so far in 1955 have been as follows (in dollars per 100 pounds): January, 6.90; February, 7.44; March, 7.15, and April, 7.59. These prices are lower than the average wholesale price in 1954 of \$8.21 per 100 pounds.

The trade reports the following prices for the various grades of rice during the first week of May 1955:

Grade	Wholesale		Retail	
	Pesos per kilogram	Dollars per 100 pounds	Pesos per kilogram	Cents per pound
Super extra.....	2.40	8.72	2.80	10
Commercial (15% broken).....	2.15	7.81	2.35	8
Extra (25-30% broken).....	1.80	6.54	2.00	7
Granillo (broken rice).....	1.10	3.99	1/	1/

1/ Not available.

URUGUAY REDUCES WHEAT BUYING RATES

Uruguayan wheat growers will receive a lower basic rate for their 1955 wheat crop than for crops of recent seasons, according to a recent announcement by the Government of that country. The base price for the 1955 crop is fixed at 14 pesos per 100 kilograms, or 2.50 pesos less than the price fixed for several past years. This price converts to about \$2.93 per bushel, using the conversion rate usually associated with wheat exports. The announced price is for sound, dry, clean wheat delivered at Montevideo, excluding the price of the bag.

Established growers, seeding 370.6 acres or less to wheat, will receive also a subsidy of 14 pesos per hectare. This is the equivalent of \$3.69 per acre, at the export rate. This subsidy will not be paid growers raising wheat for the first time, nor will it apply on total land holdings of as much as 1,235 acres, regardless of the amount of land in wheat. Growers eligible for subsidy benefits must file claims before August 31. Approved claims will be paid by the Bank of the Republic by December 31, 1955.

The price reduction is aimed at reducing losses incident to subsidized wheat and at causing some shift from wheat acreage to pasture. Even the new rate is considered relatively profitable, however, and unofficial sources predict that no significant change in wheat acreage will take place this season.

BRITISH IMPORTS OF NORTH AMERICAN APPLES

The last of the season's imports of North American apples have arrived in the United Kingdom. Source of these shipments and quantities arriving by months were as follows:

Month	S O U R C E		Total
	Canada	United States	
	-----boxes-----		
December 1954.....	132,452	67,522	199,974
January 1955.....	191,482	2,670	194,152
February 1955.....	224,976	108,498	333,474
March 1955.....	170,255	214,241	384,496
April 1955.....	64,527	98,661	163,188
Total.....	783,692	491,592	1,275,284

Of the quantity shipped by the United States, about 387,000 boxes originated at Pacific Coast ports and the remainder from Atlantic ports. From Canada, about 718,000 boxes originated in British Columbia, 65,000 in Nova Scotia, and 1,000 in Ontario.

A Foreign Agriculture Circular (FDAP 3-55) was recently released summarizing the marketing of this fruit.

INDIA'S VEGETABLE OIL MILLING INDUSTRY

India's vegetable oil milling industry (excluding the manufacture of hydrogenated oils, which was reported in Foreign Crops and Markets, April 25, 1955), employing 20 or more workers and using power, consists of 1,036 mills, according to Tilmer O. Engebretson, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, New Delhi. The size and geographical distribution of the mills as revealed by the Census of Manufacturing Industries, 1952, are shown in the tabulation on opposite page.

Bombay and Madras together accounted for more than half the total number of vegetable oil mills located in different states of India. The average number of days worked by all reporting mills was 190. All-India production of unrefined and refined oils amounted to 464,795 long tons, valued at about 865 million rupees (181.6 million dollars). The total quantity of oilseeds crushed by the reporting mills during 1952 was 1.32 million long tons, about 25 percent of the total annual average production of oilseeds in India. (See table, opposite page.)

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NEW DELHI ATTACKS MILK ADULTERATION PROBLEM

Concerned about the adulteration of milk coming into the city, the Delhi Municipal Committee of New Delhi has stepped up its efforts to check the widespread practice of watering milk and to check dilution with skim milk.

According to the Times of India, six food inspectors have been recently assigned to carry out unscheduled checks of milk coming into the Capital area. With the onset of the dry season, says the Times, village milk vendors arriving in New Delhi wait until the inspectors take samples of their milk. After the milk passes inspection, the vendors dash to the public hydrants and add generous portions of water. According to the Times, which carried a picture showing a milk vendor adding water at a horse trough, "by the time milk is in the hands of the consumer, it is more water than milk."

Municipal health authorities contend they are handicapped by insufficient power to tackle the problem of adulteration. Under existing laws they cannot cancel the license of importers who habitually water milk. Offenders caught are let off with small fines ranging from \$10 to \$20. While the law provides imprisonment for persons prosecuted for the third time, no one has been given the maximum penalty in recent years.

Another difficulty in checking adulteration results from the legal standards for milk existing in New Delhi. The rules stipulate that a fat content of 3.5 percent is legal. However, with milk from buffalos containing 6 to 7½ percent butterfat, adulteration is legally practiced to bring it down to the 3.5 percent mark.

INDIA: Oilseed crushing and production of vegetable oils (excluding edible hydrogenated vegetable oils)
by mills employing 20 or more workers and using power

Item	Bombay	W. Bengal	Madras	Uttar Pradesh	Bihar	Madhya Pradesh	Punjab	Orissa	Rajasthan	PEPSU	Saurashtra	Assam	Delhi	Total
													V. Pradesh & Nutch	all States
Mills existing (No.).....	224	77	328	101	60	81	21	7	31	8	59	30	9	1,036
Mills reporting (No.).....	185	60	320	101	59	81	21	5	22	8	57	30	6	955
Average No. days worked.....	183	255	160	249	201	195	200	209	155	262	126	259	230	190
Materials consumed														
Quantity (long tons)														
Oilseeds.....	383,362	141,135	246,816	240,329	40,859	112,388	18,232	2,140	15,116	10,991	65,439	33,523	9,568	319,898
Unrefined oils.....	2,932	1,032	501	5	19	18	927	-	30	-	34	-	64	5,562
Production														
Quantity (long tons)														
Unrefined oils.....	131,443	48,254	91,546	83,332	14,262	34,177	4,771	706	5,734	3,453	19,902	10,455	4,077	452,112
Refined oils.....	7,456	972	1,851	-	-	968	831	-	-	-	993	212	-	12,683

Source: Indian Trade Journal, May 7, 1955.

USIS IN EGYPT ASSISTING IN
MILK CONSUMPTION CAMPAIGN

The United States Information Service at Alexandria, Egypt, is assisting in a campaign to increase the consumption of milk in Alexandria, according to a report from the office of the American Consul General in Cairo.

In an unusual example of cooperation between private enterprise and an Egyptian government agency, the Social Affairs Administration of Alexandria and the Mandara Farms, the largest local dairy, are cooperating in a long-range program to increase local milk consumption, particularly by children of school and preschool age. It is hoped that per capita consumption can be greatly increased by free distribution, subsidized distribution, special low prices in schools and other places, and through the educational campaign informing the public of the desirability of an adequate amount of milk in the daily diet. At present, per capita consumption of fluid milk is said to be about one-tenth of a pint per day.

It is significant that a government agency, whose social objective is the improvement of public health, has joined hands with a commercial dairy in building a larger and permanent market--and that the two agencies have found that their individual objectives are not incompatible. The Social Affairs Administration, by joining with the dairy in this program and by requesting the friendly services of the World Health Organization and USIS, has flexibly multiplied the comparatively small funds allotted to it by the Ministry of Social Affairs.

At a recent meeting in the offices of the Social Affairs Administration in Alexandria, attended by delegates of interested local groups, in addition to the organizations named above, these three actions were taken:

1. It was decided to begin the campaign with free distribution of pasteurized whole milk for one week in schools, maternity and preschool centers, and other centers. The milk would be supplied at a nominal below-cost price by the dairy and paid for by the Social Affairs Administration. Afterward, the milk would be sold at lower than market price in the locations named above--with the price to the Administration to be somewhat higher than that of the first week.
2. A committee was formed to study the most acceptable ways of using a large quantity of dry milk obtained from UNICEF.
3. An educational campaign was planned for the public. It was suggested that the campaign include a "milk week," and that publicity be sought through Alexandria newspapers and through distribution of pamphlets and other visual materials of the USIS and the National Dairy Council of the United States.

Mandara Farms agreed to donate a sum sufficient to cover necessary costs of printed material. In the fall the educational campaign will be conducted in the schools. It is planned to utilize USIS films, essay contests, and other interest-arousing devices.

This is apparently the first joint effort of entirely voluntary cooperation between the government agency and a private company designed to benefit the health standards of the people. It will be watched with interest, and if successful will undoubtedly be adapted by other groups.

CUBA PERMITS BEEF FREE ENTRY UNTIL JULY 31

Cuban beef imports will be granted exemption from tax, consular fees, and other duties and taxes on imports from May 6 to July 31, 1955, to encourage imports and increase beef supplies in Havana and other places in the country. Cuba has a shortage of cattle for slaughter because of an intense drought, now in its seventh month.

In recent years Cuba has been almost self-sufficient in beef, although there has been one meatless day a week. Small amounts of beef and beef products have been imported from the United States.

Cuban importers are looking to Mexico as a possible source of beef products, now that Mexico is free from foot-and-mouth disease.

DANISH MILK PRODUCTION DOWN IN FIRST QUARTER

Danish milk production was down about 8 percent during January-March 1955, compared with the same quarter last year. The decrease resulted in a somewhat different pattern of milk utilization. There was a marked fall in the use of milk for butter and an increase in the volume of milk going to cheese factories.

In 1954, dairies in Denmark handled 2,445 million pounds of milk of which 1,802 million or 74 percent went to butter manufacture. In 1955, with milk deliveries to creameries down 8 percent to 2,231 million pounds, milk used for butter amounted to only 1,591 million or 71 percent of the total milk received. On the other hand, use of milk for cheese rose from 236 million pounds during the first quarter of 1954 to 263 million pounds during January-March 1955. The amount going to fluid uses and as cream dropped about 5 million pounds to 302 million during the first quarter of 1955, but utilization for this purpose increased from 12.7 percent to 13.5 percent of the total.

WORLD BUTTER AND CHEESE PRICES

DAIRY PRODUCTS: Current wholesale prices at specified markets, with comparisons

(In U. S. Cents Per Pound)

Country, market and description	Butter				Cheese			
	Date	Price	Quotations		Date	Price	Quotations	
			Month	Year			Month	Year
	1955		earlier	earlier	1955		earlier	earlier
United Kingdom (London)								
New Zealand Finest Grade	Apr.28	42.6	42.6	45.6	-	-	-	-
New Zealand Finest White	-	-	-	-	Apr.28	18.7	18.9	27.4
Australia (Sydney)								
Choicest butter	Apr.27	41.4	41.4	41.4	-	-	-	-
Choicest Cheddar	-	-	-	-	Apr.27	25.4	25.4	25.4
Irish Republic (Dublin)								
Creamery butter (bulk)	Apr.27	48.7	48.7	55.1	-	-	-	-
Cheese	-	-	-	-	Apr.27	30.8	30.8	31.0
Denmark (Copenhagen)	Apr.21	43.7	43.7	44.7	-	-	-	-
France (Paris)								
Charentes Creamery butter	Apr.19	81.6	86.8	66.1	-	-	-	-
Germany (Kempten)								
Markenbutter	Apr.27	65.4	65.4	59.9	-	-	-	-
United States								
92-score creamery (N.Y.)	Apr.29	57.9	57.9	57.6	-	-	-	-
Cheddar (Wisconsin)	-	-	-	-	Apr.29	31.8	31.8	30.6
Netherlands (Leeuwarden)								
Creamery butter	Apr.27	48.6	50.5	46.0	-	-	-	-
Full cream Gouda	-	-	-	-	Apr.22	24.5	23.6	22.4
Edam 40 percent	-	-	-	-	Apr.22	21.8	21.4	20.4
Belgium (Hasselt)	Apr.28	72.8	77.6	77.2	-	-	-	-
Canada (Montreal)								
1st grade creamery	Apr.23	59.2	63.2	59.1	-	-	-	-
Ontario white	-	-	-	-	Apr.23	30.4	30.9	30.5

Sources: Intelligence Bulletin, The Commonwealth Economic Committee; U. S. Consular Reports; and The Dairy Division; Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S.D.A.

NEW ZEALAND BUTTERFAT PRODUCTION UP

Production of butterfat in New Zealand in March, 1955, totalled 34.9 million pounds, an increase of 7.1 percent over the March, 1954, output of 32.6 million pounds, according to a dispatch from Eugene T. Ransom, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Wellington. However, production was 16.3 percent below the record of 41.7 million pounds set in March, 1953. The increase over last year was largely attributed to production being maintained in North Auckland and the Bay of Plenty, where heavy rains brought about marked improvement in pastures. In South Auckland, production fell off sharply. Feed is in short supply, and with many herds already dried off, production there is expected to continue far below average for the rest of the season.

For the 1954-55 season as a whole, production is expected to be about 440 million pounds, an increase of about 2 percent over last year.

NEW ZEALAND EXPORT MEAT OUTPUT MAY SET RECORD

A substantial increase in meat production for export this season from New Zealand is being maintained, and this year's meat output is expected to greatly exceed the total for other recent years, according to Eugene T. Ransom, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Wellington.

Total meat production in export packing houses during the 6 months beginning October 1, 1954, totaled over 603 million pounds, 78 million greater than a year earlier. If this rate of production is maintained, this year's output will be substantially above that of 1954. Around 76 percent of the year's meat output is produced in the first 6 months of the marketing season.

The larger tonnage produced was principally lamb, wether mutton, chilled beef, and boneless beef. Lamb slaughter of 1.3 million head for the 6-month period was 13 percent greater than a year earlier; wether mutton slaughter was up roughly 50 percent. Output of frozen steer and heifer beef was less than a year earlier, but this was more than offset by a substantial rise in chilled-beef production.

Shipments of this season's meat from October, 1954, to April 2 totaled nearly 293 million pounds. Stocks loaded on ships awaiting departure amounted to 38 million pounds; and storage stocks totaled 271 million. Shipments this season were as follows, in millions of pounds: United Kingdom, 277.8; U.S.S.R., 5.6; Canada, 5.4; Italy, 3.6; and the West Indies, 2.4.

In mid-May a cargo vessel, The City of Edinburgh, was loading in Wellington. Its cargo included boneless bull beef and lamb cuts (prime legs, short loins, loin racks) for shipment to the United States. These meat items are typical cargoes for other boats sailing to the United States.

JAPAN'S DAIRY BOOM COLLAPSES

The postwar boom in dairy farming in Japan has deteriorated into a depression, according to the Bank of Tokyo.

Governmental policies favoring dairying, such as allowing farmers to purchase cows on very liberal terms and giving dairy farmers preferential treatment in granting loans for other expenses, contributed to the buildup of the dairy industry. Another favorable condition for dairying was the shortage of rice and an increase in the consumption of bread, which, in turn, encouraged greater use of milk and butter.

Prewar milk cow numbers in Japan amounted to about 169,000 head. In 1954 the number of cows was 356,000 head, an increase of more than 100 percent. The quantity of fresh milk produced in 1936 was less than 650,000,000 pounds. By 1954 total milk production had increased to around 2 billion pounds.

A governmental deflation policy started during the summer of 1954, higher feed prices, cheaper margarine on the domestic market, and a resurgence in rice production has weakened the position of the dairy farmer. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has given some figures on the producer price of milk, which show that prices during the spring of 1955 were 30 percent below those during the spring of 1954. In March of 1954 the producer price of fresh milk was quoted at approximately 8.9 cents a quart; by August it had fallen to 7.7 cents, and the recent price was 6.1 cents a quart.

Stocks of dairy products in the hands of manufacturers at the end of 1954 were considerably above those recorded at the end of 1953.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is preparing measures to assist dairy farmers. The Government may aid the dairy industry by purchasing manufacturers' stocks of dairy products; in turn for which processors will agree to buy milk from dairy farmers at not less than prices currently prevailing. The Ministry may also supply dairy farmers with cheaper feed through larger imports.

U.S. IMPORTS CUBAN POTATOES

During the past few weeks approximately 140,000 cwt. of Cuban potatoes have been exported to the United States and Puerto Rico. Earlier indications were that about 200,000 cwt. would be exported to the United States, but during the latter part of the shipping season many of the lots failed to meet grade requirements.

The Cuban trade estimates a current surplus of about 200,000 cwt. of potatoes. Unless there is excessive spoilage in storage, Cuba may prohibit the entry of low-duty potatoes during the early part of the low-duty period, August through October.

MEXICAN COTTON TRANSSHIPMENTS HIGHER THAN LAST YEAR

Transshipments of Mexican cotton through United States ports in February 1955, amounted to 57,000 bales (500 pounds gross) making a total of 619,000 bales shipped for August-February, 1954-55, or 19 percent more than the 520,000 bales shipped in the corresponding period of the previous year.

During February 1955, the principal destinations were: Japan 24,000 bales; Belgium and the United Kingdom 8,000 bales each; Germany 7,000; Netherlands 6,000; and France, Italy, Sweden, and Switzerland 1,000 each. These figures include linters, waste, and hull fiber, but do not include transshipments of cotton to Canada by railroad, or exports from Mexican ports directly to foreign destinations.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TO ENCOURAGE COTTON PRODUCTION

Government interest in the development of commercial cotton production in the Dominican Republic has been given initial impetus by Resolution No. 4125, April 25, 1955, which will enable the country's largest textile mill to provide financial and technical assistance to farmers producing cotton. The responsibility for determining the amount of cotton needed is delegated to the mill. The mill will contract directly with farmers for its production, and it will undertake to provide the farmers, free of charge or at cost, with seed, technical information, insecticides, and agricultural machinery, and will purchase all cotton produced.

Cotton production in previous years has amounted to only a few hundred bales annually, mostly of tree cotton. Cotton imports from the United States amounted to 1,800 bales (500 pounds gross) in the marketing year 1953-54, and 1,480 bales in the first 8 months (August-March) of the current year.

COLOMBIA MODIFIES IMPORT TAXES ON COTTONSEED FOR PLANTING

A Colombian Government decree on April 28, 1955, has reduced import taxes on cottonseed to be used exclusively for planting, by transferring it from Group I (which pays 10 percent stamp tax) to the Preferential Group (which pays 3 percent tax), according to Quentin R. Bates, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Bogota. The decree also exempts this seed from customs duties, which formerly had amounted to 3 centavos per kilo specific, and 25 percent ad valorem duties.

Since the only cottonseed imported is that used exclusively for planting, it appears that the purpose of the change is to assist the development of the local cotton producing industry.

PAKISTAN'S COTTON EXPORTS
BELOW LAST YEAR

Pakistan's cotton exports during the first 7 months (August-February) of the 1954-55 marketing year have amounted to only 236,000 bales (500 pounds gross), or less than half the quantity of 541,000 bales exported in the corresponding months of 1953-54, according to Donald L. MacDonald, Agricultural Attache, and H. M. Farooqui, American Embassy, Karachi. An additional 109,000 bales was reportedly sold but not shipped, and was expected to move in the next few months. High prices in the early part of the season, and below average quality were factors contributing to the decline.

PAKISTAN: Exports of cotton by countries of destination;
crop years 1950-53; August-February 1953-54 and 1954-55

Country of destination	(Equivalent bales of 500 pounds gross)						
	Year beginning August 1				August-February		
	1950	1951	1952	1953	1953-54	1954-55	
	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	
Belgium.....	6.5	0.2	26.5	15.2	9.9	3.9	
Czechoslovakia.....	7.1	10.5	0	0	0	1/	
France.....	75.5	59.8	80.3	71.7	49.6	15.0	
Germany.....	38.1	26.3	89.0	32.1	20.4	2.5	
Italy.....	89.8	58.6	52.1	61.6	43.6	3.4	
Netherlands.....	8.0	.8	8.8	3.1	2.1	.6	
Poland.....	33.8	52.2	0	0	0	1/	
Spain.....	44.0	18.8	47.6	9.0	8.9	1/	
Sweden.....	15.0	.3	15.4	9.7	8.2	2.0	
United Kingdom.....	102.2	67.1	102.7	87.8	63.6	24.3	
Yugoslavia.....	.8	0	0	0	0	1/	
Australia.....	50.6	7.9	26.1	34.7	20.7	3.2	
French India.....	21.4	6.5	9.9	19.4	10.6	1.9	
Hong Kong.....	119.4	66.1	100.7	96.8	69.9	41.1	
India.....	.3	.3	0	0	0	1/	
Japan.....	280.9	234.1	517.4	261.9	168.2	107.0	
Soviet Union.....	0	0	63.1	0	0	0	
United States.....	3.0	.3	9.0	11.8	6.9	4.2	
China.....	108.7	300.9	96.9	153.2	41.2	20.8	
Other countries.....	33.9	8.0	27.4	25.2	17.2	6.3	
Total.....	1,039.0	918.7	1,272.9	893.2	541.0	236.2	
1/ If any, included in "Other countries".							

Source: Government of Pakistan--Ministry of Commerce and Education; reports from Agricultural Attaches, and other U. S. representatives abroad.

Latest trade estimates of the 1954-55 cotton crop in Pakistan, place production at approximately 1,245,000 bales from an area of 3,400,000 acres. These figures represent an increase of 2 percent in cotton produced over the 1,215,000 bale crop in 1953-54, and a 10 percent increase in acreage over the 1953-54 acreage of 3,100,000.

The Government has previously announced a production goal of 2.0 million bales (500 pounds gross) by 1957. Its attainment, however, is considered by some sources to be contingent on development of new irrigation facilities, improvement in seed, and heavier use of fertilizer.

Domestic cotton mill consumption in Pakistan has reportedly increased about 20 percent over the previous year, when the level was 410,000 bales for mill consumption, and about 30,000 bales for home industries. Additional spindles and looms are being installed this year, as evidenced by the following official figures:

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of spindles</u>	<u>No. of looms</u>
March 1948	177,000	4,824
March 1955	1,383,444	19,040
Being installed (additional)	137,800	2,828

In the opinion of the Government, about 1.5 million spindles, and about 22,000 looms, consuming approximately 1 million bales of domestic cotton, would generally be able to meet the country's needs for cotton yarn and cloth. The present consumption of all types of textile fabrics is about 9 square yards per capita. The Government target is to increase this to 12 square yards per capita. Total production of cotton cloth in Pakistani textile mills amounted to 348 million square yards, in 1954 as compared with 252 million in 1953. Production of surplus yarn nearly doubled in 1954 amounting to 98 million pounds in 1954, as compared with 52 million in 1953.

Pakistan's cotton prices have been in a continuous decline since November 1954, and reached their lowest level of the season in the first week of May 1955. Prices have strengthened somewhat since this date, as shown in the following comparisons of spot cotton quotations:

Comparison of spot cotton prices in Karachi for dates shown 1/

	<u>Nov.25-54</u>	<u>Mar.3-55</u>	<u>May 6-55</u>	<u>May 20-55</u>
	(in equivalent U. S. cents per pound)			
4F Punjab, SG, Fine ...	34.61	31.50	29.43	30.92
289F Sind, SG, Fine ...	38.00	33.33	32.43	33.67
289F Punjab, SG, Fine .	39.20	34.06	32.61	34.04
Sind Desi, Fine	33.59	28.45	25.89	26.25
Punjab Desi, Fine	31.39	25.89	23.14	23.50

1/ Quotations include export tax of 6.93 cents for 4F Punjab, 289F Sind, and 289F Punjab, and tax of 4.62 cents for Sind Desi, Fine, and Punjab Desi, Fine.

Pakistan's cotton stocks on February 28, 1955, were estimated at 870,000 bales, as compared with 260,000 bales on August 1, 1954.

CANADA'S COTTON CONSUMPTION DECLINES IN APRIL

Cotton mill consumption in Canada declined to 31,000 bales (500 pounds gross) in April 1955, as compared with the season's high of 36,000 bales in March, but the April rate remains considerably above consumption of 25,000 bales in the corresponding month one year ago.

Consumption for the 9-month period, August-April 1954-55, amounted to 271,000 bales, which represents an increase of 14 percent over the 238,000 bales consumed in the comparable period, 1953-54.

EXPANSION OF COTTON ACREAGE IN GREECE

Expansion of cotton acreage in Greece for the 1955-56 crop may result in a planted acreage as high as 387,500 acres, an increase of 44 percent over the 1954-55 acreage of 269,000, and about 75 percent higher than the 1953-54 acreage of 220,000, according to Print Hudson, Agricultural Attache, and C. Souliotis, American Embassy, Athens. This increased acreage will exceed the Government's plan to increase acreage by 25 percent, and production may exceed the production target of 230,000 bales (500 pounds gross). Production in 1954-55 amounted to 184,000 bales, as compared with 139,000 in 1953-54.

The Government's program to expand cotton production has included the following measures: removal of all export and import restrictions, and elimination of export levies on cotton; doubled amount of loans extended for 1955 cotton production on all expanded cotton acreage; continuation of cultivation loans for seed, fertilizer and pesticide procurement; and extension of medium term loans to farmers to permit purchase of pumps and motors for establishment of irrigation facilities.

Greece has only recently become a net cotton exporter, with exports of 7,000 bales in 1950-51 marking the first year of the change. Prior to that time Greece had been a cotton importing country, importing 41,000 bales in 1949-50, 39,000 of which came from the United States. Beginning with 1951-52 imports have averaged only about 1,000 bales annually, mostly Egyptian cotton.

Greece's cotton exports in the first 6 months (August-January) of the 1954-55 marketing year have amounted to 41,000 bales, as compared with exports of 29,000 bales for the entire year 1953-54, and 26,000 for 1952-53. Most of Greece's cotton is exported to Italy and France, with smaller amounts moving to Yugoslavia, Belgium, and other western European countries.

There has been a steady increase in cotton consumption in Greece in recent years. Consumption in 1954-55 is estimated at 116,000 bales, as compared with 110,000 in 1950-51, and 84,000 for the prewar average 1931-40. Expansion in spindles has amounted to about 40 percent in the last 5 years, the number being 378,000 spindles for 1955, and 262,000 for 1950. Plans are underway for a further expansion by about 20,000 spindles within the next 2 years.

INCREASED COTTON PRODUCTION IN SYRIA

Cotton production in Syria for the 1954-55 marketing year is now estimated at approximately 350,000 bales (500 pounds gross), an increase of 60 percent over production of 220,000 bales in 1953-54, according to William B. Lockling, First Secretary of the American Embassy, Damascus. Dry weather extended the picking season, thus increasing earlier production estimates by roughly 75,000 bales, or 21 percent of the current crop. The area planted to cotton increased by 24 percent over the previous year, with acreage for 1954-55 placed at 460,000 as compared with 370,000 for 1953-54.

Syria's cotton consumption amounted to approximately 42,000 bales in 1953-54, and is expected to reach 44,000 bales in 1954-55. These quantities include an approximate 1,500 bales used per year in home industries. Export availability from the 1954-55 crop is roughly estimated at 300,000 bales.

Exports in the marketing year 1953-54 totaled 183,000 bales. Exports for the first 8 months (August-March) of 1954-55 were reported at 258,000 bales, destined as follows: France 137,000 bales; the United Kingdom 41,000; Italy 37,000; Western Germany 19,000; Belgium 10,000; Japan 5,000; Denmark and Formosa 3,000 bales each; and Hong Kong 2,000.

INDONESIA TO ESTABLISH SOYBEAN MILK PLANT

The establishment of a soybean milk plant in Djakarta, Indonesia, is underway, reports the American Embassy, Djakarta. This project is one of the activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Moreover, it is one of a number of notable examples of international cooperation--that is, of programs in which several other countries in the South East Asia region are benefiting from the work in Indonesia because the Indonesian Government is generously offering the results to other interested countries.

Soybean milk is an excellent food, rich in protein, fat, and other nutritive elements. It is a good substitute for cow's milk.

FAO has provided 2 experts and 3 fellowships for this project, and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has provided the equipment. The buildings were constructed by the Government and the operation of the plant will be financed by the Government. This modern plant will be the first of its kind in this part of the world, and for this reason it can be considered as a pilot project for the whole region. The project has the attention of several other countries, and the Indonesian Government already has made it clear that the results of this pioneer work will be available to other interested nations.

YUGOSLAVIA EXPECTS DECLINE IN OILSEED, VEGETABLE OIL OUTPUT IN 1955

Production of oilseeds and vegetable oils in Yugoslavia in 1955 will be substantially less than last year if current indications hold true, reports Roy O. Westley, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Belgrade. The decrease expected in both seed and oil is due partly to a smaller sunflower seed crop forecast for 1955. However, April frosts caused extensive olive losses and further reduced the 1955 estimated production of olive oil to the lowest level in the past 20 years. Output of lard also is expected to be down from the estimated 110,000 short tons produced in 1954.

YUGOSLAVIA: Production of specified oilseeds and vegetable oils, forecast 1955 with comparisons

(Short tons)

Commodity	1953 <u>1</u> /	1954 <u>1</u> /	1955 <u>2</u> /
Oilseeds:			
Sunflower.....	125,020	138,000	123,000
Sesame.....	250	150	330
Rapeseed.....	13,110	3,300	5,500
Cottonseed.....	630	520	550
Poppy.....	3,150	350	1,650
Castor.....	1,850	2,590	2,200
Total.....	144,010	144,910	133,230
Vegetable oils:			
Sunflower.....	20,820	40,530	29,800
Poppy seed.....	1,420	150	660
Rapeseed.....	5,730	360	2,200
Sesame.....	100	60	110
Olive.....	3,300	8,800	550
Castor.....	650	1,040	770
Cottonseed.....	100	80	90
Total.....	32,120	51,020	34,180

1/ Estimated. 2/ Forecast.

Source: American Embassy, Belgrade.

Imports of edible and inedible fats and oils in 1954 totaled 47,649 short tons, a decrease of one-third from 1953. Lard imports last year totaled 22,953 tons, about half the 45,991 tons imported in 1953. Other fats and oils imported in 1954 (comparable 1953 data in parentheses) were: Crude tallow--10,183 tons (11,073); margarine--2,076 (3,494); olive oil--1,570 (385); rapeseed oil--2,205 (2,627); linseed oil--4,505 (2,620); and coconut oil--1,764 tons (3,384 tons). In both 1953 and 1954 practically all of the tallow and about 13,200 tons of the lard each year came direct from the United States.

Complete data regarding oilseed imports in 1954 are not yet available. In 1953 imports included 6,586 tons of sunflower seed, 5,511 tons of soybeans, 5,897 tons of rapeseed and 575 tons of hempseed.

Informed Yugoslav sources state that currently needed imports are lard and margarine, rather than any of the oils.

MEXICO'S TALLOW PRODUCTION DOWN SLIGHTLY IN 1955

Production of animal tallows in Mexico in 1955 is expected to approximate 28,700 short tons, or somewhat less than the estimated output of 30,680 tons in 1954, but larger than the 27,355 tons produced in 1953, reports Ana M. Gomez, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Mexico City. These data include all animal tallows, whereas tallow production figures previously reported in the article "Mexico Anticipates Increased Production of Fats and Oils, Large Peanut Surplus," Foreign Crops and Markets, May 2, 1955, page 541, included only tallow from cattle. Thus, the expected total production of all fats and oils in Mexico in 1955, as reported therein, would be increased to 306,280 tons oil equivalent, as compared with 277,575 tons in 1954 and 244,660 tons in 1953.

PHILIPPINE PEANUT PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS UP

Philippine production and exports of peanuts are expected to increase somewhat in fiscal 1954-55 (July-June), according to H. V. Geib, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Manila. Moreover, with increasing foreign demand, official sources believe that production in succeeding years will continue to increase.

The 1954-55 crop is forecast at 13,600 short tons shelled basis (20,400 tons unshelled) from 70,175 acres, compared with the preliminary official estimate for 1953-54 of 13,500 tons shelled (20,250 tons unshelled) from 69,680 acres. Since World War II, statistics have shown successive increases in the area planted to peanuts.

Exports of shelled peanuts from January 1 to April 12, 1955, amounted to 1,122 tons. Total exports in 1954 (shipments started only in August 1954) amounted to 748 tons. Thus the exports from August 1954 to April 12, 1955, were 1,870 tons. All of these shipments went to the United States.

Peanut exports to the United States consisted of three classes: Class I--Big Kernel Type--kernels number less than 45 per 25 grams (0.88 oz.); Class II--Medium Kernel Type--kernels number 45 to 54 per 25 grams; Class III--Small Kernel Type--kernels number 55 or more per 25 grams. Of the total shipments from August 1954 to April 1955, 86 percent were Class I peanuts, 13 percent Class III and 1 percent Class II. (Cont'd., p. 664.)

There is no prohibition on the export of peanuts except to Communist-controlled countries.

The domestic wholesale price in mid-April 1955 was 14.5 to 15.0 U. S. cents per pound for Class I peanuts. The export price for Class I peanuts was from 19.5 to 21.0 cents per pound f.o.b. Manila.

U.S. NET EXPORTS OF OILCAKES AND MEALS UP SHARPLY

The United States trade in oilseed cakes and meals during the first 6 months of the current marketing year that began October 1, 1954, resulted in net exports of 223,582 short tons, against net imports of only 104 tons in the corresponding period of 1953-54. This sharp shift in the net trade position, resulting from heavy exports of soybean, cottonseed, and linseed oilcakes and meals, reflects ample United States supplies and relatively favorable prices for buyers.

UNITED STATES: Net trade in oilseed cakes and meals, by kind,
years beginning October 1, 1951, and
6 months beginning October 1, 1954 1/

(Short tons)

Year	Copra	Cotton- seed	Linseed	Peanut	Soybean	Other	Total
1951-52.....	103,818	167,003	16,277	3,005	-17,649	31,132	303,586
1952-53.....	95,907	80,462	26,342	3,471	-10,731	36,733	232,264
1953-54.....	79,783	3,694	-30,345	-709	-50,912	25,000	26,511
1954-55 (6 mos.)	32,091	-65,096	-37,273	0	-155,720	2,416	-223,582

1/ Minus sign (-) indicates net exports.

Compiled from Bureau of the Census data.

During the last 3 complete crop years beginning October 1951, according to the above data, net imports declined from 303,586 tons to 232,264 and 26,511 tons, respectively.

SWITZERLAND RAISES TAX ON IMPORTED FATS AND OILS

Switzerland's tax on imported fats and oils was increased from SF 5 to SF 10 per 100 kilograms (0.5-1.1 U.S. cents per pound ^{1/}), effective July 1, 1955, reports the American Embassy, Bern. The increase in the tax, however, will be applicable only to imported finished products, and not to semi-finished or raw products. This is one of the latest steps taken by the Swiss Government to protect the domestic butter industry.

The increase in the tax rate will not affect consumer prices because it will be offset by a SF 5 per 100 kilogram reduction of the storage and risk guarantee payable in the case of obligatory stocks. Because of the compensation, the increase will not affect the interest of the importers or manufacturers. Also, it will not directly affect the volume of imports (see Foreign Crops and Markets of May 16, 1955, page 607), because the price differential between cooking butter and edible fats still remains appreciable. It may, however, affect the consumption of edible fats and oils indirectly since the returns from the increased tax will be used to lower the price of cooking or table butter and make them more competitive.

The yearly per capita consumption of butter in Switzerland amounts to about 13 pounds. This relatively high rate of consumption is partly the consequence of butter subsidies.

Cooking fats in Switzerland, early May, retailed at SF 2.50 per kilogram (26 cents per pound), while margarine sold at SF 4 (42 cents), table butter at SF 10.45, (\$1.11) and cooking butter at SF 7.60 per kilogram (80 cents per pound). Before the war Switzerland consumed about 32,200 short tons of butter and only 7,450 tons of coconut butter. In 1953, the consumption of butter was about the same as prewar but that of coconut butter increased to 17,100 tons.

The small increase in the tax will not reduce greatly the competition between cooking fats and butter and dairy organizations have declared that they are far from being satisfied. They state that they intend first to follow the effects of this move and, should it prove inadequate, request further and more sizable increases of the tax on imported fats and oils and, if necessary, on imported raw products used in their manufacture.

^{1/} Converted to U.S. currency at the official rate of exchange of
1 Swiss Franc = U.S. \$0.233308.

MALAYAN COCONUT OIL EXPORTS UP;
COPRA EXPORTS DECLINE IN 1954

Malayan coconut oil exports reached 79,226 long tons during calendar year 1954, roughly one-third larger than in 1953 and two-thirds larger than the 1935-39 average; copra exports at 64,898 tons were 4 percent less than in 1953 and only one-third the prewar average, reports Glenn A. Ruggles, Agricultural Officer, Singapore.

Table 1 - MALAYA: Coconut oil exports and imports, average 1935-39, annual 1952-54 and October-December 1953-54

(Long tons)

Country	:Average: :1935-39:	1952	: October-December: : 1953 : 1954 1/ :		1953	: 1954 1/ :
Exports	:	:	:	:	:	:
France.....	100:	328:	-	-	-	-
Italy.....	20:	5,382:	2,136:	1,765:	6,407:	6,253
Netherlands.....	822:	9,605:	4,854:	199:	9,392:	2,403
Sweden.....	185:	776:	2,115:	-	2,115:	1,739
United Kingdom.....	8,857:	1,657:	-	911:	291:	2,506
West Germany.....	100:	2,361:	4,024:	-	7,492:	2,952
Other Europe.....	190:	135:	25:	-	367: 2/	990
Burma.....	3,908:	22,317:	2,825:	5,184:	9,700:	26,029
China.....	2,028:	0:	4,151:	5,399:	5,781:	19,757
Formosa.....	-	512:	902:	-	2,007:	924
Hong Kong.....	1,391:	3,155:	343:	175:	1,160:	890
India.....	22,500:	11,380:	478:	3,394:	13,130:	11,847
Indonesia.....	3,119:	371:	38:	-	229:	-
Iraq.....	-	705:	-	-	-	-
Pakistan.....	-	21:	-	30:	-	385
Egypt.....	3,295:	3,551:	235:	55:	653:	813
Union of South Africa	325:	638:	716:	-	1,122:	601
Other countries.....	269:	3,318:	209:	479:	1,564:	1,137
Total.....	47,109:	66,212:	23,051:	17,591:	61,410:	79,226
Imports	:	:	:	:	:	:
British possessions..	16:	581:	367:	178:	612:	458
Indonesia.....	328:	10:	20:	72:	0:	258
Other countries.....	229:	508:	-	2:	20:	2
Total.....	573:	1,099:	387:	252:	632:	718

1/ Preliminary. 2/ All to Yugoslavia.

Compiled from official statistics.

The increase in exports of oil was due to the heavy exports directly to China and indirectly through Burma. Most of the refined oil shipped to Burma (18,341 tons in 1954) reportedly was destined for China. Thus China probably was the recipient of at least one-half of the total quantity exported in 1954. This entrepot trade declined in the fourth quarter following the imposition by the Burmese Government of a 10 percent duty on such oil and the sale to China of large quantities of Indian peanut oil at lower prices. Meanwhile, trade with Western Europe was about two-thirds less than in the year earlier. (Text cont'd., next page.)

Table 2 MALAYA: Copra exports and imports, average 1935-39, annual 1952-54 and October-December 1953-54

(Long tons)

Country	Average	1952	October-December		1953	1954 1/
	1935-39		1953	1954 1/		
Exports						
Austria.....	-	550	-	-	-	-
Czechoslovakia.....	652	-	-	-	-	-
Denmark.....	2,050	2,200	300	300	6,870	4,350
France.....	8,578	8,080	-	400	300	4,100
Italy.....	11,322	2,150	2,641	925	4,516	3,550
Netherlands.....	28,956	6,650	4,819	4,323	11,394	10,337
Norway.....	4,703	1,300	-	-	1,550	300
Poland.....	3,358	1,600	250	1,500	2,000	1,500
Spain.....	-	5,074	3,147	-	3,639	561
Sweden.....	1,850	8,000	5,950	1,150	10,400	12,525
United Kingdom.....	57,750	16,167	650	-	7,440	100
West Germany.....	46,384	4,650	3,595	3,025	11,306	6,622
Other Europe.....	2,825	26	197	500	247:2/	4,222
India.....	535	1,325	400	3,517	2,802	13,166
Japan.....	2,483	788	196	-	3,269	-
Other Asia.....	959	1,533	300:3/	700	970:3/	1,850
Other countries.....	19,286	1,400	-	505	1,250	1,715
Total.....	191,691	61,493	22,445	16,845	67,953	64,898
Imports						
British possessions...	10,617	9,875	1,276	1,111	5,231	4,396
Indonesia.....	105,500	78,642:4/	28,225	31,254	68,907	117,745
Other countries.....	2,134	797	1,638:5/	4,308	3,566:6/	10,228
Total.....	118,251	89,314	31,139	36,673	77,704	132,369

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Includes 3,487 tons to Finland. 3/ All to Iraq.

4/ Includes 23,994 tons from Sumatra. 5/ Includes 2,384 tons from Thailand.

6/ Includes 4,988 tons from Thailand.

Compiled from official statistics.

Coconut oil exports of 17,591 long tons during the last quarter of 1954 totaled one-fourth less than in the corresponding quarter of 1953. A sharp decrease in the flow of coconut oil to Western Europe, particularly the Netherlands, Western Germany, Italy, and Sweden; was but partly offset by increased exports to China, Burma, and India.

Singapore wholesale prices of Malayan coconut oil in 1954 dropped considerably. Starting in early January at M\$63.50 per picul; f.o.b., (United States 15.7 cents per pound) reaching the year's high of M\$67.50 (16.7 cents) in the latter part of January; prices fell to a fairly steady M\$55.00 (13.6 cents); and then fluctuated between M\$48.50 and \$55.00 (12.0 and 13.6 cents) during the third quarter while the Chinese continued heavy purchasing after which they slowly settled to M\$49.50 (12.2 cents) at the end of 1954. By the end of April 1955, Singapore wholesale prices sank to a low of M\$43.50 (10.8 cents).

Malayan copra exports of 64,898 long tons in 1954 were only slightly less than in 1953; however, imports, largely from Indonesia, increased from 77,704 to 132,369 tons. Outward movement of Malayan copra declined to 16,845 tons in the last quarter of 1954 compared with 22,445 in the corresponding period of 1953.

Exports of Malayan copra to European countries in general dropped; and the Japanese made no purchases in 1954. But shipments increased almost five-fold to India which became the largest Malayan copra importer in 1954.

Copra (sundried) prices maintained a steady descent during 1954, except for the last quarter of 1954. From a January peak of M\$42.25 per picul (10.5 cents); the prices dropped to about M\$28.00 (6.9 cents) in September 1954, followed by improved prices ranging from M\$29.00 to M\$32.25 (7.2 and 8.0 cents) in the last quarter. Prices continued to drop in 1955 to reach a low of M\$27.25 (6.7 cents) in May.

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PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO U.S. FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL TRADE

Issued recently and available free upon request
from the Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

USDA Announces Public Law 480 Sale of Tobacco to Finland. Foreign Ag. Circ. FT-23-55

Cotton Production Expanding in Central America. Foreign Ag. Circ. FC-4-55

Summary of the 1954-55 U.S. Apple Exports to the United Kingdom. Foreign Ag. Circ. FDAP-3-55

The Tobacco Market in Ireland. Foreign Ag. Circ. FT-24-55

World Tobacco Trade Increases in 1954. Foreign Ag. Circ. FT-25-55

U.S. FOOD PRODUCTS EXHIBITS
PLANNED FOR COLOGNE FAIR

A United States food exhibit at the Cologne, Germany, International Food Fair, in October, is being planned by the United States Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with private trade groups.

Persons wishing detailed information, or interested in acquiring space at the Fair, are urged to submit their requests as soon as possible to: International Trade Fair Staff, Foreign Agricultural Service, Washington 25, D.C. Requests will be accepted until June 17.

Approximately 6,456 square feet of space has been reserved by the USDA in the Fair's Hall of Nations. Individual exhibit spaces, approximately 20 by 15 feet, will be available either singly or in multiples. Applications for smaller spaces will be given consideration.

Besides reserving space, the USDA will serve as organizing agent for the entire U.S. exhibit. Private trade participants will be expected to provide commodity displays and personnel to man them. Also, it will be necessary for private trade to bear all costs other than for space. Priority for space will go first to trade associations and then to individual firms.

The biennial Cologne Fair is one of the largest food exhibitions held in Europe. Attendance at the 1953 Fair totaled 262,000. About 15 foreign countries besides the United States will be represented.

U.S. participation in the Fair is to help step up sales promotion of this country's food and related products abroad.

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L A T E N E W S

The final payment to Canada's wheat growers for the 1953-54 wheat pool was announced on May 16, by the Minister of Trade and Commerce. The final payment brings the total price for the 1953 crop to \$1.56 per bushel in Canadian currency, basis No. 1 Northern wheat in elevators at the Lakehead or at Vancouver. This is 26 cents per bushel less than the price for top grade wheat in the 1952 pool. The 1953 pool prices are equivalent to an average farm price of about \$1.34 per bushel for all classes and grades. This may be compared with the average farm price of \$1.59 for the 1952 crop and \$1.55 for the 1951 crop.

The Government of India has recently announced two changes which affect the import and export of cotton, as follows: (1) resumption of import licensing of cotton from non-dollar areas, for staple lengths 1-1/4 inches and longer; and (2) an increase in the maximum staple length of domestic cotton exports to 25/32 inches for all export quotas released so far. The total allotment of Indian cotton thus far released for export during the current season (1954-55) has amounted to 300,000 Indian bales (245,000 bales of 500 pounds gross). Of this total 100,000 Indian bales, or 81,667 bales of 500 pounds gross, were Bengal Desi-type cotton.

